U.S. Serial No. 10/440986

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Serial No.: 10/643,986

Group Art Unit: 1753

Inventor: P. McDonald

Filed: August 20, 2003

Examiner: S. Versteeg

Title: METHOD OF TREATING SPUTTERING

TARGET TO REDUCE BURN-IN TIME AND SPUTTERING TARGET THEREOF

AND APPARATUS THEREOF

REPLY AND AMENDMENT PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Official Action issued November 26, 2004, Applicants provide the following amendments and remarks:

Amendments to the Claims appear on Page 2 of this paper.

Remarks appear on Page 6 of this paper.